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## DOYLE APPLAUDS GOVERNOR PATAKI FOR FUNDING JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER STUDY IN 2001 STATE BUDGET

County Executive Jack Doyle today applauded and thanked Governor George E. Pataki for including planning dollars for Monroe County's proposed Juvenile Justice Center in his 2001 New York State Budget. As part of the Governor's sweeping and historic budget, \$20,000 is targeted for further study of this innovative facility.

"I want to personally thank Governor Pataki for his commitment to Monroe County's Juvenile Justice Center in his 2001 budget," said Doyle. "Governor Pataki has consistently provided great leadership on the issue of juvenile justice and I am very pleased that he feels our proposed center is worthy of further study at the state level."

The Juvenile Justice Center proposal was developed to respond to the fact that taxpayers spend approximately \$75,000 a year for each youth placed in such facilities. Despite the high cost for these placements, seven out of ten youths become repeat offenders.

Under the existing system, juveniles (under age 16) who are arrested and taken into custody are now placed in the county's detention center until their cases are resolved by the courts. If these juveniles are found to be delinquent and ordered into state custody, they are sent to an assessment center in the Bronx. Once assessed, they may be sent to yet another facility away from their home in Monroe County.

This system of constant shuffling does not allow for any consistent education, drug treatment or other programs and family members are often unable to visit or take an active role in counseling.

The combination of placement and detention in one facility, is the key to Doyle's Juvenile Justice Center proposal. The same professionals who work with the youth during detention would continue to work with them after they have been placed. Family members, ministers and others would be able to attend counseling sessions and visit regularly to further support the youth.

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"We are lucky to have a partner like Governor Pataki in Albany," said County Executive Doyle. "More than any other state official, the Governor has consistently been supportive and eager to hear more about the Juvenile Justice Center project. I am grateful that he saw fit to include these planning dollars in his budget."

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For further information, call: Communications at 428-2380 See us on the web at www.co.monroe.ny.us